City of Crystal Lake Economic Development Committee
June 13, 2017 – 7:30 a.m.
Municipal Complex – City Council Chambers Conference Room

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. by Mr. Reece.

Roll Call/Attendance
Members Dalzell, Leech, Saidler, and Reece were present. Ms. Maule arrived at 7:40 a.m. Members Affrunti, DeHaan, Schroll and Fowler were absent.

Heather Maieritsch, Economic Development Manager, was present.

Mr. Reece said that since there was no quorum present at this time, the approval of the minutes was tabled.

Public Participation
There was no one present to speak.

Business anniversaries and tour updates
Ms. Maieritsch said Autotech and Garfield's were recently recognized for their contributions to the community. Both businesses made significant contributions to enhance the Virginia Street Corridor and attract others to the area. She added that they plan to recognize the Amish Furniture store but there are outstanding items regarding their awning and signs.

Mr. Reece suggested giving an award to 1776. They did a lot of renovation to both the interior and exterior of the building. The members agreed.

Ms. Maieritsch said there is a ribbon cutting ceremony on June 15 at noon for Living Stones at 1145 Mitchell Court and members are welcome to attend.

Ms. Maieritsch said the next business anniversary presentation will be at the City Council meeting on July 18 at 7:30 p.m. They are at the beginning of the meeting. The businesses to be honored are Clip Joynt – 40 years, Carow Packaging – 30 years, and Metro Bowl – 60 years. Mr. Reece noted that there was originally a residence on the property that was moved for the construction of Metro Bowl.

I Shop Crystal Lake Update
Ms. Maieritsch said the I Shop campaign is going well. They are advertising days like National Hamburger Day which allows them to mention several of the Crystal Lake restaurants.

Ms. Maule arrived at this time.

Ms. Maieritsch said there are several businesses shifting locations in the Downtown area. The Pilates studio will be moving to a larger space and Benedicts to Go will be moving a couple a storefronts down.

Mr. Reece said now there is a quorum and they can vote on the minutes from the previous meeting.

Approve Minutes of the April 25, 2017 Meeting
Mr. Leech moved to approve the April 25, 2017 EDC minutes as presented. Ms. Maule seconded the motion. On voice vote, members Dalzell, Maule, Saidler, and Reece voted aye. Mr. Leech abstained. Motion passed.

Organization reports:

Downtown Crystal Lake

Ms. Maule said the Williams Street Festival was last weekend. Mr. Dalzell said there were very few food vendors. Mr. Leech said the people from the Raue Center need to do a better job of communicating what is going on so the businesses can better prepare. Also it would be helpful to ask for feedback from the businesses to help them with the planning for the next event.

Chamber of Commerce

Ms. Maule said they recently hosted the State Treasurer and it was open to other Chambers in the area. There will be two State Representatives coming to discuss the end of the session. Also they are working with McHenry County Economic Development to schedule a Town Hall meeting.

Ms. Maule said there are 98 entries in the Independence Day Parade this year. They were able to secure sponsorship for the event. Also the beer tent will be run by the Lions Club.

McEDC

There was no report.

City of Crystal Lake

Ms. Maieritsch said the former standalone Sports Authority has changed hands with realtors. There is an interested tenant for that building. Many retail users are currently hesitant to lease large spaces. Also, there are discussions underway for a tenant for the former K-Mart space. Mariano's is moving forward. They will be going before the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council for approval of a gas station along with the grocery store.

Mr. Leech said he had heard that Dunkin Donuts is interested in one of the gas stations on Route 14. Ms. Maieritsch said they have heard that as well but they have not discussed layout with the City.

Ms. Maieritsch said that Three Oaks Recreation Area had its best day ever recently even though it was too windy to allow the boats on the lake. Many of the people coming to Three Oaks are from other communities. She added that there is a new group coming to Three Oaks because of the wake board park. Ms. Maule said there is also a new wake board park in Rockford that opened last year.

Ms. Maieritsch said the former Mexican restaurant on Route 31 north of Route 176 will be opening as a Puerto Rico style restaurant. Also the former Pizza Hut will be opening soon as Carlos Mexican Grill. She added that Dukes on the Water is up and running at Three Oaks Recreation Area.

Mr. Leech asked if there has been any feedback on M Supper Club. Ms. Maieritsch said the parking is difficult but people like the food and interior. She said the City is looking into what can be done on helping customers cross the street and address parking in the area. Ms. Maule suggested a group valet like they have in Richmond. She said 1776 also has the same parking challenge. Mr. Reece said Jasters is a problem as well and uses street parking. Mr. Leech said when he ran a restaurant there, it was not unusual for him to valet 90 cars on a Friday night. He added that left turns should be prohibited from those businesses because it's not safe. Mr. Reece said using the St. Thomas parking lot is a viable alternative for parking. Mr. Leech said they used the parking lot and was told not to by the priests there. Ms. Maule said now they are willing to have cars park there if the business leases the parking lot.

Ms. Maule said 1776 opened last night.

Comments and suggestions from the Committee

Mr. Leech asked about the former Hines Lumber site and where that stands in the process. Ms. Maieritsch said it is currently stalled. There are ongoing discussions between the current and potential owners regarding environmental corrections required on the property. Mr. Leech asked why CVS didn't move there as they originally planned. Ms. Maieritsch said at that time it was their company's policy to move near or across from Walgreens.

Mr. Leech asked if the cable park has a marketing campaign. Ms. Maieritsch said the City advertises Three Oaks Recreation Area and mentions the wake board park but we don't specifically advertise for a private business. Mr. Reece said the restaurant there will help.

Mr. Saidler said Aptar purchased more space in the building his business is in. He added that the owners of the building are not discussing the possibility of extending their lease, which is up in 2018.

Mr. Leech asked about the possible tech business park near McHenry County College. Ms. Maieritsch said staff is focusing on jobs coming to the community which in turn will create retail and restaurant activity, as well as, more employees to Crystal Lake.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 a.m.